

Ms. Anne Peat
Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



12th September 2011

Dear Ms. Peat,

Re: Letter from Scottish Government PE1367/Q

I welcome the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's latest submission on my petition which detailed the conversation between the Home Office and Scottish Government officials on 2 August 2011.

There is little in this letter that is anything other than disappointing. Firstly, it is unsatisfactory that despite what we have been told in the ten months this petition has been active, both in written submissions from to the Committee and in oral evidence from the then Community Safety Minister, the Scottish Government does not seem at all interested in seriously working towards a ban.

In the conversation they have had failed to even touch upon the real issues surrounding the Mosquito. Was there discussion about whether the device is discriminatory? Was there discussion around the effects the device has on innocent young people, particularly vulnerable groups? If these were discussed, as they certainly should have been, what was the response from the Home Office?

After ten months of a petition, and much more importantly after thousands of young people supported a ban in the Scottish Youth Parliament's 'Change the Picture' manifesto, this is utterly inadequate. The entire movement against the Mosquito was dismissed as "a level of concern" with that old promise to "keep the position under review".

If the Scottish Government will not do any better than this for its young people, it is extremely concerning. If they are taking this issue seriously, the discussions they have with people who have power over a ban under the regulation of goods should be comprehensive and serious. I urge the committee to ask questions of the Scottish Government with regard to how seriously it takes the rights of young people, and what real action it is taking to listen to them on the Mosquito device and achieve a ban.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Deans MSYP